

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Austria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Comment by Soviet Officers on the Beria Affair	DATE DISTR.	17 July 1953
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**BY CABLE**

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3. On 11 July, a group of Soviet nationals employed by the Rear Services of the Central Group of Forces discussed the event and some members of the group expressed interest in the views of the Austrian newspapers. One of the group answered that Austrian newspapers had predicted a power struggle after the death of Stalin. A lieutenant colonel stated that Beria wanted to seize power.
4. The director of a Vienna USIA firm ordered all magazines with a cover picture or article on Beria removed from the office as of 13 July.
5. The arrest of Beria is a major topic of conversation among Soviet nationals in Austria. Military personnel of field grade and below consider themselves not directly concerned and show no apprehension. No sympathy is expressed for Beria.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
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